



"Women, like men, should try to do the impossible" (A. Earhart)

# MASAI GIRLS

**June 17, 2016**

Yamashita Haruka: Ah, wha- what was the name of the tribe?

José Cruz: Masai.

Haruka: Ah! Masai. About marriage of the younger girls who were born in Masai. (Mm-hmm) Right?

José: Mm-hmm. What did you think of that?

Haruka: Well, I actually have learned uh the same kind of thing in the (Cool) university class university the the cla- in the class which is held in my university. (Mm) And uh in that class I learned about the, uh in Japanese we we called it uh *katsurei*.

José: **What does that mean?**

Haruka: Just like **um**, at certain age when um, in that kind of like, African countries- In African countries, when the girl uh turn to a certain age like maybe five or six, (Mm-hmm) when they are still young (Mm-hmm) uh their family, like especially their mother or their grand- grandmother take her take her (Mm-hmm) to the kind of like uh, not a magician, but just like...

José: Uh, um like a- a "witch doctor" (Ah yeah!) or a (A witch doctor) medicine (Yeah) "medicine man" or a "medicine woman".

Haruka: Yeah. Uh yes and they take to the- that kind of- They take her to that kind of woman (A medicine woman) Yeah medicine woman and they- uh she cut the certain part of her...

José: Th- they they do a female circumcision.

Haruka: Yes! That, we call it *katsurei*.

José: Ah, that's what that is. OK. Female circumcision.

Haruka: **Female circum- circumcis...**

José: Circumcision. (Circumcisions) Because there's male circumcision (Mm-hmm) or usually we just call that circumcison, (Uh-huh) and for women uh that is female circumcison. (Yeah. OK) When you first heard about that, what did you think?

Haruka: I was I was just, I was just so shocked about it. And I couldn't imagine that, that I- If I were in that situation, like maybe I feel that there's no freedom, and like I'm just like there's no human right for me. Maybe I feel so.

José: It's hard to imagine what those girls are really thinking, because for somebody like you, you can only think about that situation as yourself. Here you are, you're...

Haruka: Yeah yeah. From my place.

José: Right. You're a modern girl, in a modern country, with modern dreams, with modern potential, (Yeah) in a modern educational situation (Yeah exactly) and suddenly you you **think to** this tradition to this culture that is completely separate from you. But those girls their mothers have been talking about it, their grandmothers talk about it (Mm) their sisters talk about it, to them it's all perfectly normal. (Mm) Um I'm sure they're probably shocked by the pain, (Yeah) but their setting is completely different.

Haruka: I- I think so. And I like- It's- I- I'm quite sure they have no idea about, like, how should I say, this is right or wrong. But, uh I- as I said you before she is- I mean they were they will be so shocked about that pain. And just but- how- they they didn't get certain education so maybe they just so shocked and- but they... Mm, what are you **going to** do, they have to accept it maybe.

[word count: 497]

Pointers:

Haruka uses good fluency tactics, using filler words like, "um" to maintain her speaking rate. She is also good at repeating parts of her phrases so she doesn't stop talking just because she couldn't immediately say a word or phrase properly.

**What does that mean...:** When José doesn't understand something, Haruka continues talking and explains her idea without stopping and describes it well enough that he can understand and thus tell Haruka the English word she didn't know (0:40)

**um:** a "filler" or "pause" word that allows the speaker to maintain their fluency (0:43)

**Female circum- circumcis...:** Haruka shows a good learning tactic of immediately repeating a newly learned word to confirm the meaning of what she heard, it's pronunciation etc. (1:49)

**think to:** José should have said "**think about**" (3:05)

**going to:** pronounced, "**GONNA**" (4:01)

Discussion:

At what age do you want to get married?

Are there arranged marriages in your country?

If YOU were being forced into a marriage, what would you do?

VOA ARTICLE: "RESCUING MASAI GIRLS FROM EARLY MARRIAGE"

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/rescuing-masai-girls-from-early-marriage/1441266.html>

IMAGE COURTESY VALERIEBARON

<https://pixabay.com/en/masai-visit-to-the-masai-women-341960/>

